

# National Cultural Policy Submission

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Submitted: As an individual

**What challenges and opportunities do you see in the pillar or pillars most relevant to you? Feel free to respond to any or all pillars:**

## **First Nations**

My suggested policy (Artists in Residence in Regional, Rural and Remote Primary Schools) gives First Nations artists an opportunity to work with their local communities as well as visiting artists from other First Nations communities

## **A Place for Every Story**

This policy would enable artists and students to craft their own unique stories in the geographic and emotional heart of their communities – their schools

## **The Centrality of the Artist**

The artist is central to this policy, demonstrating their skills and abilities to a wide range of people and often introducing the arts to students who have no theatre, gallery or cinema in their communities.

## **Strong Institutions**

The policy builds strong ties from the school into the local community

## **Reaching the Audience**

This is the strongest outcome of all for this policy – creating an understanding and passion for the arts, thus developing the audiences of the future across all art forms

## **Are there any other things that you would like to see in a National Cultural Policy?**

While many arts funding bodies in Australian states and territories have an Artist in Residence (AIR) policy and provide funding, not all do (including NSW), and none are targeted at Regional, Rural and Remote Primary Schools. I am a member of the Arts Board of Shoalhaven Council and we have recently launched a pilot project in four of our local schools whereby local artists, including a First Nations painter, and a musician, have been employed to work with the children in exploring artistic ideas. The pilot has been interrupted by Covid exclusions but anecdotal evidence is that the artists and children have so far benefitted greatly from their relationship. This submission comes with the Arts Board's full support.

I feel strongly that a National Arts Policy should reflect the need for all States and Territories to embrace a well-resourced AIR program in regional, rural and remote centres which should be partly funded by the Federal Government (perhaps through the Australia Council) to enable artists to visit remote areas and cross borders.

A national website could be funded to include a database of all artists (painters, musicians, writers, poets, performers, dancers etc) available and wishing to participate in the program. The website

would also include recommended rates of pay, templates for documents such as advertisements seeking Expressions of Interest from local artists, letters of agreement between school and artist, feedback forms etc.

Every Australian child should have some exposure to at least one art form by the time they leave Primary School. It is important that Regional, Rural and Remote communities are targeted because many of these places do not even have a local cinema let alone a theatre or gallery or other means of exposure to the arts.

To quote some of the 2013 policy: "An arts-rich education that starts at school helps young people think critically and develop a strong sense of identity and high self-esteem. It also assists to develop future audiences, consumers and creators. Engagement in the arts at school also improves students' performance in other areas of the curriculum, particularly for children who are 'at risk' and face other life challenges. Almost all school students now undertake some form of arts and cultural studies, but the methodology and content in delivering this education is not yet uniform. In many areas teachers receive little support or training in integrating creative arts into their classrooms."